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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Domestic Cover Committee - Progress Report  
and Recommendations

1. The enclosure has been reviewed and given careful study by this office. The central theme of the recommendations is concurred in; namely, that all phases of implementation of semi-cover must be placed in one unit with full authority to act on behalf of all CIA. This office, however, does not concur in the theory that the answer to the cover problem is the expansion, refinement and effective administration of present practices, as it is felt that the true answer to the cover problem is the more forward approach as described in our memorandum of 23 November 1951. In order, however, that some action will be taken towards improvement of the cover situation as it presently exists in the Agency, this office concurs in the conclusion of the Cover Committee 2(b) with the proviso that in the implementation of this proposal every consideration be given to its development along the general lines set forth in our memorandum of 23 November 1951.

2. It has been the experience of I&SO that the majority of problems arising with semi-cover occur in matters of a general personnel nature, such as credit references, present employment, inquiries from outside, etc.; furthermore, that the initial semi-covert problem and its solution arises in personnel recruitment under appropriate cover when first contact is made with an individual for employment. Under this premise, this office does not agree with paragraph 3(a) that the most appropriate unit for the implementation of this problem is the Cover Division. The problems of cover cut across administrative and operational factors and represent the sum total of problems in personnel, security, cover division, liaison channels and other units.

3. It is therefore recommended that the establishment and management of appropriate semi-covert administrative measures be

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118  
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placed under the direction of the Assistant Director for Personnel. The AD/P should establish a separate unit responsible for the implementation of the cover program, to consist of assigned officers of the Cover Division (representing DP/P), Security and Personnel. It is recommended that the proposed unit be granted appropriate authority to implement this program and to delegate certain responsibilities to the respective officers to be exercised under its close direction. The central unit as proposed is not a committee but would be a full-time working unit handling all phases of the cover program.

4. The Security Office is prepared to assist in the implementation of this program through advice and personnel to assist in carrying out this function.

SIGNED

Sheffield Edwards  
Colonel, GSC  
Security Officer/CIA

Encl.

Report of Domestic Cover Committee  
dtd 12 Sept 52

IASO/RLB:ekh (3 Oct 52)

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